

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 17-26 and 31 are active in the present application. Claims 27-30 and 32 have been canceled. No new matter is added.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank Examiner Tarazano for the helpful and courteous discussion of February 26, 2004. Applicants further thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-3, 5-13, 17-27 and 31 are allowed. During the discussion, Applicants' U.S. representative reviewed the rejections of the Office Action of January 26, 2004 with the Examiner.

Claims 27-30 and 32 are canceled herein. The amendment to the claims obviates the rejections of the Office Action of January 26, 2004.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims places all now-pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and the passage of all now-pending claims to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

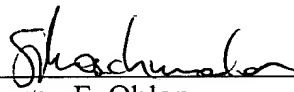
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